

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 13202 211150Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 H-03 L-03

IO-13 M-03 A-01 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 EUR-25 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /148 W

----- 020574

P R 210850Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4942

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL DANANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 13202

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS FINANCES: VISIT TO FIELD SITES

STATE PASS EA, PM, H, L, IO AND M

1. TOUR OF FOUR ICCS FIELD SITES IN ICCS REGIONS I AND II BY
EMBOFF PENNER AND DEPTOFF KINSOLVING ON JULY 20 AND 21 REVEALED
FOLLOWING STATE OF AFFAIRS AT X PLUS SIX MONTHS: BOTH LIVING
AND WORKING CONDITIONS REMAIN SPARTAN. WORST CONDITIONS IN
QUANG TRI SITE, WHERE TEAMS ARE HOUSED IN LEAKING PYRAMID
TENTS, SUBJECT TO FREQUENT FLOODING OF FLOORS AND BASE ARE,
AND PERSISTENT HEALTH MENACE PRODUCED BY DECAYING UNBURIED
BODIES IN ADJACENT RUINS WITH RATS AND SNAKES UNDERFOOT.
UNDER 90 DEGREE HEAT CONDITIONS FOUR CHIP DELS AT QUANG TRI
DEPENDENT ON ONLY ONE AIR CONDITIONER WHICH IS IN DINING ROOM.
IN SUCH SITES MESSING FUND ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH
MINIMUM EATING FACILITY. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS WITH ICCS
PERSONNEL AT ALL FOUR SITES INDICATED THAT \$13 PER DAY SUPPLE-
MENTAL FOOD ALLOWANCE NOT BEING TOTALLY SPENT ON FOOD AND
COULD BE REDUCED. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT SITES SUCH AS QUANG
TRI LACK EVEN MOST SIMPLE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 13202 211150Z

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RE NECESSITY PRESENT DEPENDENCE ON AIR TRANSPORTATION, ICCS PERSONNEL COMMENTED THAT WHILE ROAD CONDITIONS BETWEEN PRINCIPAL SITES HAVE IMPROVED, ROAD TRAVEL REMAINS EXTREMELY TIME-CONSUMING. ROADS BETWEEN SUB-REGIONAL SITES AND INVESTIGATION LOCALITIES ARE OFTEN HAZARDOUS OR IMPASSABLE BECAUSE OF DANGER FROM UNCLEARED MINES, GENERAL INSECURITY, MUD, AND WASHED OUT OR BLOWN BRIDGES. FURTHERMORE, REQUIREMENT FOR ARVN ARMED ESCORTS ADDS TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT SOME LIMITED SAVINGS MIGHT BE EFFECTED BY SUBSTITUTING CHEAPER FIXED WING LIGHT AIRCRAFT SUCH AS VOLPARS USED BY AIR AMERICA IN PLACE OF HELICOPTERS. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE AIR AMERICA CONTRACT REVISION.

3. CANDEL/POLDEL REPS DANANG COMPLAINED OF EXTREMELY HIGH ELECTRICITY CHARGES, AND IT IS POSSIBLE GVN ELECTRICITY CHARGES TO ICCS INSTALLATIONS MIGHT BE REDUCED. POLDEL DANANG ALSO NOTED THAT ICCS UNABLE TO AFFORD LIMITED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE DUE TO PRESENT FISCAL STRICTURES WHICH WOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS WITHIN THREE MONTH PERIOD. IN PARTICULAR, POLDEL UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT \$1,000 FOR ELECTRIC CABLE TO UP-GRADE ALTERNATE QUARTERS WHICH WOULD BE CHEAPER.

4. FURTHERMORE, IF ICCS DEPLOYS TEAMS TO REMAINING SITES IN PRG-HELD TERRITORY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, ADDITIONAL COSTS WOULD BE INCURRED FOR TRANSPORTATION AND UPGRADING OF PRIMITIVE FACILITIES.

5. FOREGOING DOES NOT CHANGE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON AMOUNT OF BUDGET USG SHOULD APPROVE AT PRESENT.
MARTIN

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NNN

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